

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185473

53

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

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9/18/73 EXT. 21245

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R 182115Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RECIFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BR

SUBJECT:CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
MOVEMENTS OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY
DONALD M. FRASER DEMOCRAT MINNESOTA WILL CONDUCT OPEN
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
FROM SEPTEMBER 17 TO OCTOBER 11. COMMITTEE PURPOSE TO
DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING UN PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCREASE PRIORITY GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS
CONSIDERATIONS IN FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION WITHIN USG.
CASE STUDIES WILL INCLUDE HEARINGS ON BRAZIL OCTOBER 4 AT
WHICH THOMAS QUIGLEY OF CATHOLIC CONFERENCE AND THOMAS
BUERGANTHAL OF UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO LAW SCHOOL WILL
TESTIFY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 185473

2. DEPARTMENT HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION SEND OFFICER

TO TESTIFY AT THE SESSION. OFFICE DIRECTOR STEPHEN LOW
WILL REPRESENT DEPARTMENT. IN LETTER ACCEPTING INVITATION
DEPARTMENT POINTED OUT THAT OFFICIALS WHO TESTIFY WILL
HAVE TO BEAR IN MIND THAT ANSWERS TO SOME QUESTIONS RAISED
BY COMMITTEE WILL FALL WITHIN AREA WHICH STATES CONSIDER
TO BE OF EXCLUSIVELY DOMESTIC CONCERN.

3. QUESTIONS FROM SUBCOMMITTEE INCLUDE: A. HOW DO HUMAN
RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN BRAZIL AFFECT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS?

B. ARE THERE CERTAIN MINIMAL STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
WHICH DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS MUST BE OBSERVED FOR
MAINTENANCE OF NORMAL BILATERAL RELATIONS?

C. WHAT MEASURES HAS DEPARTMENT TAKEN TO PERSUADE GOB
TO ENSURE GREATER REQUEST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

D. WHAT PRIORITY DOES DEPARTMENT GIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS
CONSIDERATIONS IN RELATION TO DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC, MILITARY AND OTHER PERTINENT CONSIDERATIONS?

4. DEPARTMENT PREPARING TESTIMONY BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE EMBASSY MAY FURNISH, ESPECIALLY
ON FOLLOWING TOPICS:

A. IS EMBASSY AWARE OF ANY PUBLIC ADMISSION BY GOB
OFFICIAL THAT IT IS EXERCISING PRESS CENSORSHIP.

B. CAN EMBASSY UPDATE ASSESSMENT ON LEVEL OF TORTURE
AND OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS? HOW ABOUT
ALLEGED SLAVERY, MISTREATMENT OF INDIANS AND DEATH
SQUAD ACTIVITIES? HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CASES INVOLVING
AMERICANS SINCE MAY 1971?

C. HAVE THERE BEEN RECENT INSTANCES WHEN EMBASSY
OFFICERS DISCUSSED HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS WITH GOB
OFFICIALS? WHAT WAS SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION?

IN PREPARING TESTIMONY DEPARTMENT WILL DRAW UPON RECORD
OF CHURCH COMMITTEE HEARINGS. CONSEQUENTLY
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INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY NEED ONLY COVER
PERIOD SINCE MAY 1971. RUSH

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